



October 5, 2015

To: Executive Committee of Iowa Council on Homelessness

Re: Reallocation Appeal for 2015 Renewal Project Narrative from Opening Doors

Opening Doors has submitted their renewal project narrative for the Maria House project and an appeal letter regarding the ranking of our project. Opening Doors is appealing the following items that were reviewed and ranked:

Performance Section:

12) Exits to permanent destinations:

Opening Doors received 7 out of 10 due to reporting limited affordable housing in the area and Section 8 being unable to fund for sometime in the future.

Opening Doors reported that there is very limited affordable housing in the area. In fact, the section 8 housing list in the Dubuque area is closed. The city of Dubuque housing authority does not know when it will reopen, due to losing over 200 housing vouchers from HUD. Because of this acute housing shortage, Opening Doors is actively working with a local developer to create permanent supportive housing in a former school that sits adjacent to Maria House. Over 80% of the funding needed to start this project has been raised, a capital campaign is launching yet this month and the renovations are slated to start early next year. Since we are actively working on creating a permanent supportive housing project and have committed funding for this project, Opening Doors should be rewarded full points for this question.

Continuum of Care Participation Section:

13) Annual Performance Report (APR) Submission:

Opening Doors received 1 out of 2 due to reporting the submission would be on time.

Opening Doors reported the end of operating year is April 30th and that the APR would be submitted within the 90 day time period. The APR was submitted on July 16, 2015 which is within the 90 day time frame. Therefore Opening Doors should be rewarded the full amount of points for this question.

Budget and Capacity Section:

16) HUD Grand Monitoring

Opening Doors received 1 out of 2 for this section with no comment.

Opening Doors commented that we have not had any HUD budget monitoring in the past 3 years. We have no control over when HUD decides to a monitoring visit. We were told, initially, that since our grant is small, we wouldn't receive as many monitoring visits as other larger grantees would. Because Opening Doors is spending funds appropriately we haven't had any monitoring visits in a few years. Therefore, Opening Doors should be rewarded the full amount of points for this question.

20) Spending History

Opening Doors received 8 out of 10 and 7 out of 10 from both reviewers for this section with no comments.

Opening Doors has always expended 100% of CoC HUD funds. Since Opening Doors grant is relatively small, we have had no problem with expending all of our funds. Therefore, Opening Doors should be rewarded full points for this question.

Thank you for taking time to consider our appeal. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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